



State of Illinois
Illinois Deaf and Hard of
Hearing Commission



Annual Report 2018

Fiscal Year July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018



Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission

528 South Fifth Street, Suite 209, Springfield, Illinois 62701
217-557-4495 (V) • 217-303-8010 (VP) • 888-261-2698 (TTY)
www.idhhc.illinois.gov

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THE COMMISSION

The Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission (IDHHC) is an executive state agency that advocates on behalf of the interests of persons in Illinois who are deaf or hard of hearing.

COMMISSIONERS

The Commission is governed by eleven (11) Commissioners. The Commissioners are appointed by the Governor's Office and represent different geographical areas of Illinois.

Dennis O'Brien	–	Wheaton (Chairperson)
Amy Blough	–	Peoria
Joseph Culpepper	–	Bloomington
Susan Dramin-Weiss	–	Champaign
David Frazier	–	University Park
Karla Giese	–	Highwood
Lori Krakora	–	Naperville
Jarom Matheson	–	Chicago
Joseph Obermaier	–	Oak Park
Susan Saaco	–	Rock Island
Bryen Yunashko	–	Chicago

Former Commissioners served during the fiscal year: Haydee Garcia and Cindy Janovtez.

STAFF

The Commission is operated by a team of dedicated staff members.

John Miller	-	Director
Janet Lambert	-	Assistant Director
Tonia Bogener	-	Legal Counsel/Interim Director*
Dana Craig	-	Program Coordinator
Patty Greene	-	Personnel Manager
Lee Taylor	-	Office Assistant

*Effective December 2017

INTERPRETER FOR THE DEAF PROGRAM

The Commission operates the Interpreter for the Deaf Program that includes Interpreter Licensing and BEI Certification in accordance to the Interpreter for the Deaf Licensure Act of 2007. The Interpreter Licensure Board provides recommendations to the Commission Director on issues related to the Interpreter for the Deaf Licensure Act of 2007. Information about the sign language interpreters including board members of the Interpreter Licensure Board and Interpreter Licensing and BEI Certification during the fiscal year can be found on Pages 9, 10, and 11.



Mission Statement

The Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission shall promote system change, community education and collaboration to advance effective communication access for all individuals with hearing loss in Illinois.

Objectives

The Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission (IDHHC) promotes education and awareness about hearing loss and the legal requirements for effective communication on behalf of people with hearing loss in Illinois.

The Commission strives to promote independence for individuals with hearing loss by providing technical assistance and training to enhance public and private programs, and by making legislative and policy recommendations to assure accessibility.

The Commission provides statewide resources to assist the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind community in Illinois. The Commission also regulates licensure for sign language interpreters and maintain an online directory of all licensed Illinois sign language interpreters.

Core Functions

- Promote independence for individuals with a hearing loss
- Increase quality and number of sign language interpreters
- Provide educational awareness regarding hearing loss
- Provide statewide resources

Vision Statement

All Illinois residents with a hearing loss will enjoy the benefits of a fully accessible society enabling each person to participate in and contribute to all aspects of life.

History

In 1995, various leaders in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community started discussing the desire for a governmental body to focus on the needs of individuals with hearing loss. This group developed into a Task Force to lobby for the formation of a new state agency.

The Governor issued an amendatory veto to legislation establishing Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission (IDHHC) as a state agency and changed it to an advisory committee under the Department of Human Services. Based on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community outcry, the House and Senate both overrode the Governor's veto. While officially established on January 1, 1997, IDHHC opened its office in November 1998, when the first Director was hired.

PROGRAM & OPERATIONS

Statewide Services, Resources, and Information

The Commission provides statewide services, resources, and information about Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind. During the Fiscal Year 2018, the Commission received 13,317 public inquiries and provided requested information and referral as appropriate to individuals, and public and private entities for issues including, but not limited to, accessibility and accommodation issues, advocacy organizations, assistive technology, centers on independent living, discrimination complaints, educational options, service and resource availability, sign language interpreters and communication access, telecommunication equipment, and state Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program. On an ongoing basis, the Commission reviews federal and state statutes, regulations, and policies regarding Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind.

Community Outreach & Collaboration

The Commission promotes outreach effort to all Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind communities to increase visibility and awareness of the Commission program and operations. Some of the highlights during the Fiscal Year 2018, the Commission attended the Roundtable with all Interpreter Training Program (ITP) representatives on collaboration ways to support and strengthen the training program for prospect interpreters; the Commission solicited public comments by hosting the stakeholder's forum in Northern and Southern Illinois pursuant to the Senate Resolution 528; and the Commission, in coordination with the Governor's Office, submitted the Senate Resolution 528 report with recommendations to identify the needs and priorities of the various segments of the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and DeafBlind community.

Technical Assistance, Consultation, & Training Support

The Commission provides technical assistance, consultation, and training support to improve access to public and private programs and services for persons who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind. Some of the highlights during the Fiscal Year 2018, the Commission hosted the training for school administrators and parents focused on the special education laws and development of Individualized Education Plans (IEPs); sponsored training for DeafBlind in Southern Illinois; and hosted the BEI Rater Training to increase the number of raters for BEI Certification Testing. The Commission continues to educate service providers and employers of their obligations to provide effective communication under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

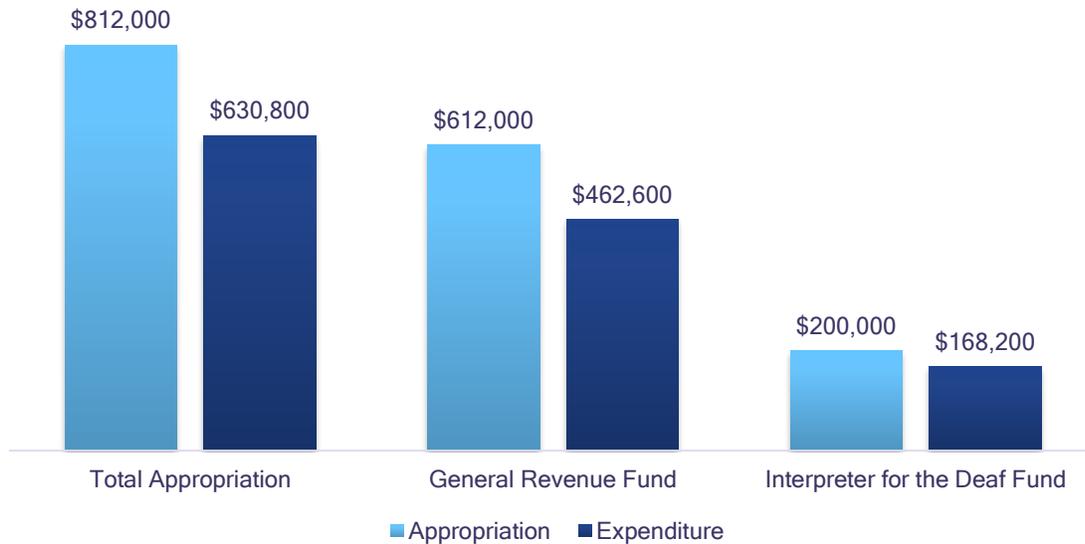
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*Public Inquiries for
Information and Referral Provided*

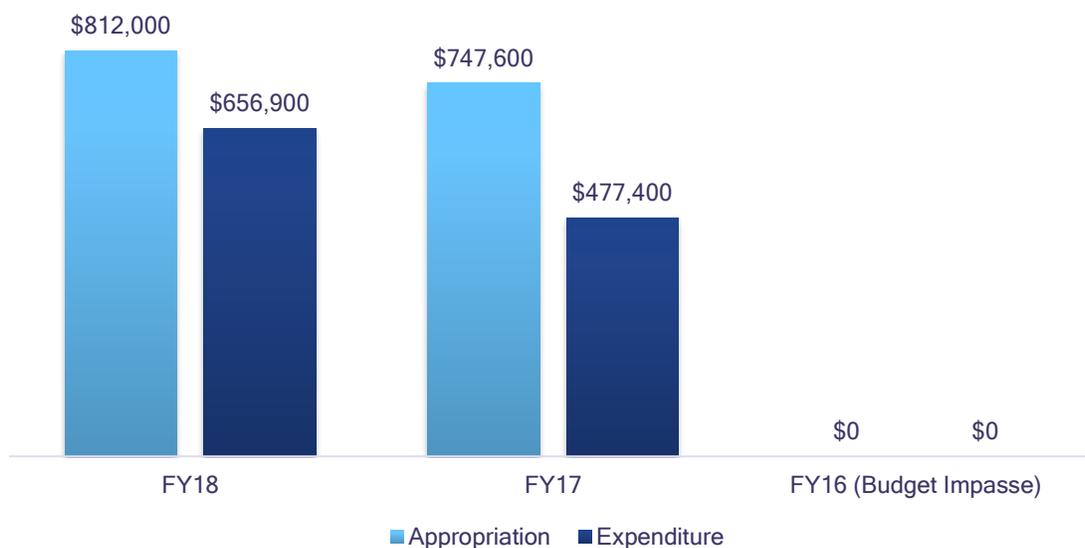
COMMISSION BUDGET

\$812,000

Fiscal Year 2018 Appropriation & Expenditure



Appropriations & Expenditures History



BY THE NUMBERS

	FY18	FY17	FY16
Public Inquiries	13,317	11,373	12,100
Educational and Informational Materials Distributed	7,040	20,188	58,100
Interpreters Participated in IDHHC Sponsored or Hosted Professional Development Opportunities	428	203	N/A
Subscribers to IDHHC Electronic Mail Communications	640	590	580

7040

Number of Educational Information and Materials Distributed

Legislative Bills & Resolutions

The Illinois General Assembly's main functions include enacting, amending or repealing laws; passing resolutions; adopting spending bills; and examining proposed legislation. During the legislative session, thousands of bills and resolutions were introduced in the areas of government, education, regulation, human needs, health and safety, agriculture and conversation, transportation, rights and remedies, and business and employment. The Commission monitors bills and resolutions that are relevant to the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind communities in Illinois. The Commission also provides a list of relevant bills and resolutions to the public on the website for informational purposes only and does not necessarily reflect the Commission's position. During the Fiscal Year 2018, some bills became laws that effect the needs of Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind population. Visit the Commission website for a list of bills that became Public Acts.

SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS

The Commission is a licensing body responsible for the enforcement of the Interpreter for the Deaf Licensure Act of 2007. The Commission also administers the Illinois Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) certification test; maintains an online directory of all licensed interpreters by proficiency levels, geographic regions, counties, and contact information; and conducts investigation of alleged violations and in cases of substantiated allegations, various voluntary corrective measures are used including imposition of discipline when appropriate.

INTERPRETER LICENSURE BOARD MEMBERS

The Interpreter Licensure Board consists of seven (7) members appointed by the IDHHC Director. The Board is composed of four (4) licensed interpreters for the deaf and three (3) deaf or hard of hearing consumers and the IDHHC Interpreter Coordinator. The Board provides recommendations to the IDHHC Director on issues related to the Interpreter for the Deaf Licensure Act of 2007.

Shelley Williams	–	Champaign (Chairperson)
Laura Braucht	–	Jacksonville
Michele Cunningham	–	Chicago
Debby Sampson	–	Glenview
Susan Sanders	–	Peoria
Shelley Williams	–	Champaign
William Lee	–	Chicago

428

*Number of Interpreters Participated in IDHHC
Sponsored or Hosted Professional Development Opportunities*

Annual Interpreter Conference

The Commission hosted the Annual Interpreter Conference at the University of Illinois at Springfield (UIS). The annual conference offers professional development for licensed sign language interpreters with continuing education accredited workshops. A total of 86 licensed sign language interpreters participated in the conference.

**2018 Annual
Interpreter
Conference**
86 Participants

Illinois Interpreter Licensing & BEI Certification

	FY18	FY17	FY16
Total Licensing & BEI Applications	1,252	1,228	1,320

Illinois Interpreter Licensing Statistics

682

Licensed Interpreters

39

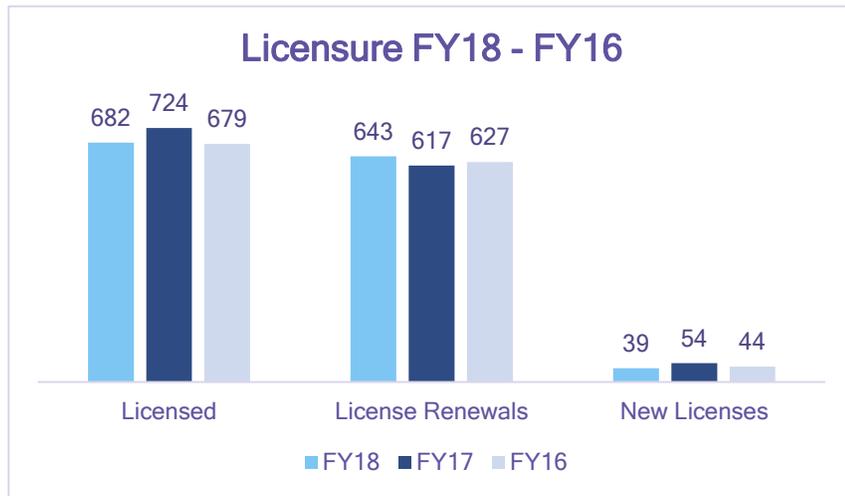
New Licenses

643

License Renewals

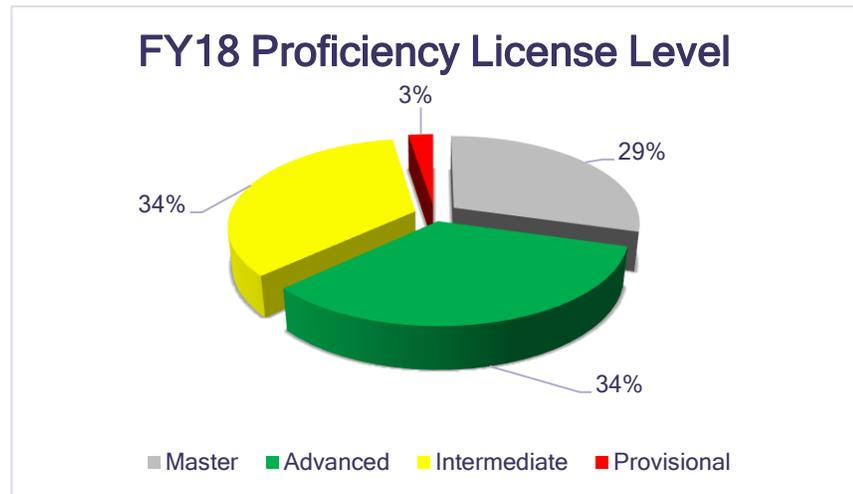
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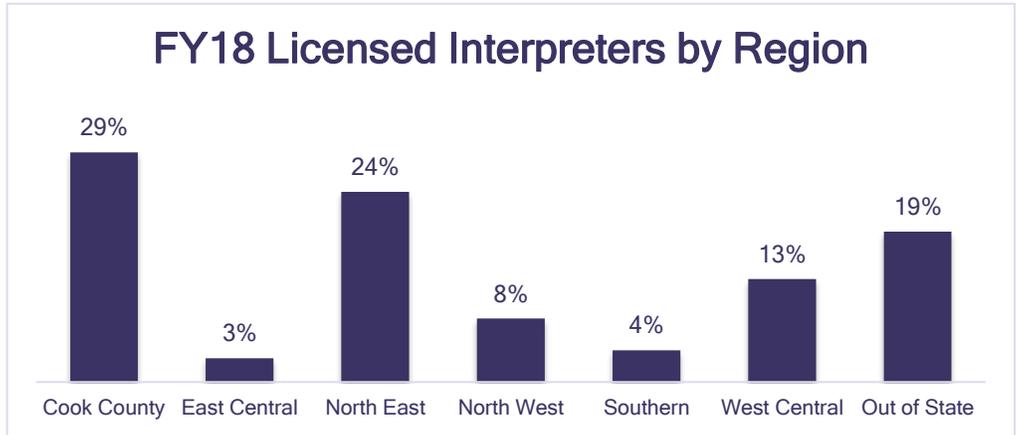
Proficiency Level Upgrades



What's New?

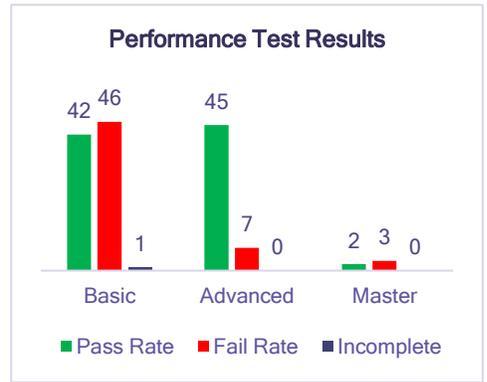
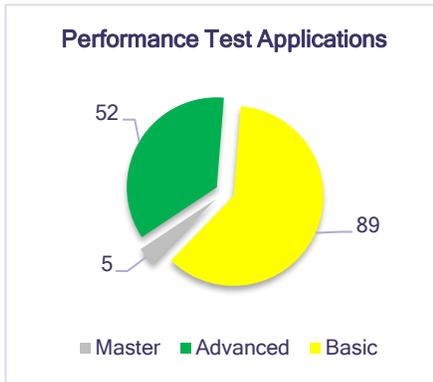
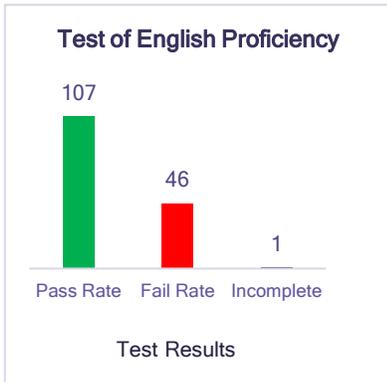
This is the last fiscal year IDHHC utilized the manual licensing system.





BEI Testing and Certification Statistics

		FY18		FY17		FY16	
BEI Certification Tests Administered		300		287		288	
Test of English Proficiency	Performance Test	154	146	154	133	158	130



Illinois Interpreter Training & Interpreter Preparation Programs

- College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn
- Columbia College Chicago, Chicago
- Illinois Central College, East Peoria
- John A. Logan College, Carterville
- *Quincy University, Quincy
- *William Rainey Harper College, Palatine

- Moraine Valley Community College, Palos Hills
- Southwestern Illinois College, Belleville
- Waubensee Community College, Aurora
- *MacMurray College, Jacksonville
- *Richland Community College, Decatur

*Denotes Program Suspended or Closed



Electronic Publication available at www.idhhc.illinois.gov

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